

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 420

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a health science center and medical school
in the Rio Grande Valley.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 74, Education Code, is amended by adding
Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE

CENTER--RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Sec. 74.751. HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER. (a) The board of regents of The University of Texas System may operate The University of Texas Health Science Center--Rio Grande Valley as a component institution of The University of Texas System with its main campus and administrative offices in the Harlingen metropolitan area. The health science center may consist of a medical school, other health and health-related degree programs, and related programs and facilities as the board considers appropriate, including:

(1) research and training facilities at The University of Texas--Pan American and The University of Texas at Brownsville that are used to support the health science center; and

(2) additional research programs and facilities in the Edinburg metropolitan area.

(b) The board of regents may include facilities located in Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr, Willacy, and

1 Zapata Counties in the health science center and may operate
2 programs and activities and provide related services of the center
3 in those counties.

4 (c) The board of regents shall require that courses for the
5 first two years of a degree program preparing students for
6 licensure as physicians that is offered by the health science
7 center be held at The University of Texas at Brownsville. Other
8 courses for the program must be held at the main campus of the
9 health science center except as otherwise necessary to operate the
10 program.

11 Sec. 74.752. PARTICIPATION IN AVAILABLE UNIVERSITY FUND.
12 In accordance with Section 18(c), Article VII, Texas Constitution,
13 if the Act enacting this section receives a vote of two-thirds of
14 all the members elected to each house of the legislature, the
15 institution created under this section is entitled to participate
16 in the funding provided by Section 18, Article VII, Texas
17 Constitution, for The University of Texas System.

18 Sec. 74.753. COURSES AND DEGREES; RULES. The board of
19 regents may prescribe courses leading to customary degrees and may
20 adopt rules for the operation, control, and management of the
21 health science center as may be necessary for the conduct of a
22 medical school and other health science center programs of the
23 first class.

24 Sec. 74.754. AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS; JOINT APPOINTMENTS.
25 (a) The board of regents may execute and carry out affiliation or
26 coordination agreements with any other entity or institution in the
27 region, including The University of Texas--Pan American and The

1 University of Texas at Brownsville, to participate in the health
2 science center.

3 (b) The board of regents may make joint appointments in the
4 health science center and other institutions under the board's
5 governance. The salary of a person who receives a joint appointment
6 shall be apportioned to the appointing institutions on the basis of
7 services rendered.

8 Sec. 74.755. GIFTS AND GRANTS. The board of regents may
9 accept and administer gifts and grants from any public or private
10 person or entity for the use and benefit of the health science
11 center.

12 Sec. 74.756. OTHER FACILITIES. In addition to the
13 facilities of the health science center, the board of regents may
14 enter into agreements under which additional facilities used in the
15 center's teaching and research programs, including libraries,
16 auditoriums, research facilities, and medical education buildings,
17 may be provided by a public or private entity.

18 Sec. 74.757. TEACHING HOSPITAL. A teaching hospital
19 considered suitable by the board of regents for the health science
20 center may be provided by a public or private entity. The hospital
21 may not be constructed, maintained, or operated with state funds.

22 Sec. 74.758. COORDINATING BOARD SUPERVISION. The health
23 science center is subject to the continuing supervision of the
24 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Chapter 61 and to
25 the rules of the coordinating board adopted under Chapter 61.

26 Sec. 74.759. EFFECT OF HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER ON RIO GRANDE
27 VALLEY ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER. (a) The board of regents may

1 convert the regional academic health center established under
2 Subchapter L into The University of Texas Health Science
3 Center--Rio Grande Valley and establish a medical school at the
4 health science center as soon as the board considers appropriate
5 considering available resources and the best interests of The
6 University of Texas System and the people of this state and the
7 Lower Rio Grande Valley. In establishing the health science center
8 and medical school, the board of regents shall ensure that the
9 programs, students, and faculty and staff of the regional academic
10 health center are not affected other than as the board considers
11 necessary to implement this subchapter.

12 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that The University
13 of Texas Health Science Center--Rio Grande Valley be established by
14 conversion of the regional academic health center established under
15 Subchapter L and that those entities be considered to be the same
16 institution. A reference in law to the regional academic health
17 center applies to The University of Texas Health Science
18 Center--Rio Grande Valley to the extent it can be made applicable.
19 All contracts and agreements, including bonds and other financial
20 obligations, entered into by The University of Texas System or any
21 of its officers or employees relating to the regional academic
22 health center apply to The University of Texas Health Science
23 Center--Rio Grande Valley when the health science center is
24 established.

25 (c) The permanent endowment fund established under Section
26 63.101 for the benefit of the regional academic health center
27 established under Subchapter L is transferred to the benefit of The

1 University of Texas Health Science Center--Rio Grande Valley when
2 the health science center is established. It is the intent of the
3 legislature that the transfer of the endowment fund be made so as
4 not to interrupt the research or other programs supported by
5 distributions from the fund.

6 SECTION 2. Section 55.1732, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

8 (e) Bonds authorized or issued under this section for the
9 regional academic health center established under Section 74.611
10 are considered to have been authorized or issued for The University
11 of Texas Health Science Center--Rio Grande Valley when that
12 institution is established.

13 SECTION 3. Subdivision (5), Section 61.003, Education Code,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 (5) "Medical and dental unit" means The University of
16 Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; The University of Texas
17 Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; The University of Texas
18 Medical School at San Antonio; The University of Texas Dental
19 Branch at Houston; The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer
20 Center; The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical
21 Sciences at Houston; The University of Texas Dental School at San
22 Antonio; The University of Texas Medical School at Houston; The
23 University of Texas Health Science Center--Rio Grande Valley, if
24 established under Section 74.751; the nursing institutions of The
25 University of Texas System; and The University of Texas School of
26 Public Health at Houston; and such other medical or dental schools
27 as may be established by statute or as provided in this chapter.

1 SECTION 4. Subsection (c), Section 63.002, Education Code,
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 (c) The amount available for distribution from the fund may
4 be appropriated only for programs that benefit medical research,
5 health education, or treatment programs at the following
6 health-related institutions of higher education:

7 (1) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
8 San Antonio;

9 (2) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer
10 Center;

11 (3) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
12 Center at Dallas;

13 (4) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
14 Galveston;

15 (5) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
16 Houston;

17 (6) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
18 Tyler;

19 (7) The University of Texas Health Science Center--Rio
20 Grande Valley, if established under Section 74.751;

21 (8) The Texas A&M University Health Science Center;

22 (9) [~~(8)~~] the University of North Texas Health Science
23 Center at Fort Worth;

24 (10) [~~(9)~~] the Texas Tech University Health Sciences
25 Center; and

26 (11) [~~(10)~~] Baylor College of Medicine, if a contract
27 between Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Higher Education

1 Coordinating Board is in effect under Section 61.092.

2 SECTION 5. Subsection (a), Section 65.02, Education Code,
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (a) The University of Texas System is composed of the
5 following institutions and entities:

6 (1) The University of Texas at Arlington, including:

7 (A) The University of Texas Institute of Urban
8 Studies at Arlington; and

9 (B) The University of Texas School of Nursing at
10 Arlington;

11 (2) The University of Texas at Austin, including:

12 (A) The University of Texas Marine Science
13 Institute;

14 (B) The University of Texas McDonald Observatory
15 at Mount Locke; and

16 (C) The University of Texas School of Nursing at
17 Austin;

18 (3) The University of Texas at Dallas;

19 (4) The University of Texas at El Paso, including The
20 University of Texas School of Nursing at El Paso;

21 (5) The University of Texas of the Permian Basin;

22 (6) The University of Texas at San Antonio, including
23 the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio;

24 (7) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
25 Center at Dallas, including:

26 (A) The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
27 School at Dallas;

1 (B) The University of Texas Southwestern
2 Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Dallas; and

3 (C) The University of Texas Southwestern Allied
4 Health Sciences School at Dallas;

5 (8) The University of Texas Medical Branch at
6 Galveston, including:

7 (A) The University of Texas Medical School at
8 Galveston;

9 (B) The University of Texas Graduate School of
10 Biomedical Sciences at Galveston;

11 (C) The University of Texas School of Allied
12 Health Sciences at Galveston;

13 (D) The University of Texas Marine Biomedical
14 Institute at Galveston;

15 (E) The University of Texas Hospitals at
16 Galveston; and

17 (F) The University of Texas School of Nursing at
18 Galveston;

19 (9) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
20 Houston, including:

21 (A) The University of Texas Medical School at
22 Houston;

23 (B) The University of Texas Dental Branch at
24 Houston;

25 (C) The University of Texas Graduate School of
26 Biomedical Sciences at Houston;

27 (D) The University of Texas School of Health

1 Information Sciences at Houston;

2 (E) The University of Texas School of Public
3 Health at Houston;

4 (F) The University of Texas Speech and Hearing
5 Institute at Houston; and

6 (G) The University of Texas School of Nursing at
7 Houston;

8 (10) The University of Texas Health Science Center at
9 San Antonio, including:

10 (A) The University of Texas Medical School at San
11 Antonio;

12 (B) The University of Texas Dental School at San
13 Antonio;

14 (C) The University of Texas Graduate School of
15 Biomedical Sciences at San Antonio;

16 (D) The University of Texas School of Allied
17 Health Sciences at San Antonio; and

18 (E) The University of Texas School of Nursing at
19 San Antonio;

20 (11) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer
21 Center, including:

22 (A) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson
23 Hospital;

24 (B) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Tumor
25 Institute; and

26 (C) The University of Texas M. D. Anderson
27 Science Park; and

1 (12) The University of Texas Health Science
2 Center--Rio Grande Valley, if established under Section 74.751.

3 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.